

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~Method for purifying and/or isolating high-molecular compounds contained in a solution or a suspension with the capacity for metal chelate formation, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) ~~Application of the~~ applying a solution or suspension containing high-molecular compounds onto a metal ions containing membrane[.]; and
  - (b) ~~separating affinity chromatographic separation of the~~ high-molecular compounds by affinity chromatography by binding them to the metal ions containing membrane,  
wherein the high-molecular compounds have a molecular weight greater than  $1 \times 10^6$  Da.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 1, wherein the high-molecular compounds are selected from the group consisting of high-molecular proteins, high-molecular protein-like compounds, high-molecular biopolymers, high-molecular lipids, micelles having a high molecular weight and liposomes having a high molecular weight.
4. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 1, wherein the metal ions are selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 4, wherein the metal ion is  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .
6. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 1, wherein the membrane is a matrix material selected from the group consisting of agaroses, modified agaroses, modified dextrans, polystyrenes, polyethers, polyacrylamides, polyamides, cellulose,

modified celluloses, such as cross-linked celluloses, nitrocelluloses, cellulose acetates, silicates and poly(meth)acrylates, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyesters, polyvinyl chlorides, polyvinylidene fluoride, polypropylene, polysulfones and polyethersulfones.

7. (Currently amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the metal ions containing membrane has a pore size in the range of 0.01 to 12  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably in the range of 0.45 to 7  $\mu\text{m}$ , especially preferably in the range of 3 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
8. (Currently amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim 3, wherein the high-molecular protein-like compounds are selected from the group consisting of (poly)peptides and derivatives thereof, derivatized proteins, recombinant proteins and (poly)peptides, di-, tri-, tetra- to multimers of peptides, polypeptides or proteins, (multi)-protein complexes, cell organelles, fusion proteins, viruses or parts thereof, recombinant viruses or parts thereof, and recombinant bacteriophages or parts thereof.
9. (Currently amended) The method~~Method~~ according to one of Claim 1, wherein a mixture containing the high-molecular compounds is subjected to ion exchange chromatography to remove impurities prior to step (a).
10. (Currently amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim 9, wherein the ion exchange chromatography is performed using an ion exchanger membrane.
11. (Currently amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim 10, wherein the ion exchanger membrane comprises a matrix material selected from the group consisting of agaroses, modified agaroses, modified dextrans, polystyrenes, polyethers, polyacrylamides, polyamides, cellulose, modified celluloses, such as cross-linked celluloses, nitrocelluloses, cellulose acetates, silicates and poly(meth)acrylates, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyesters, polyvinyl chlorides, polyvinylidene fluoride, polypropylenes, polysulfones and polyethersulfones.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 10, wherein the ion exchanger membrane has a pore size in the range of 0.01 to 12  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably in the range of 0.45 to 7  $\mu\text{m}$ , and especially preferably in the range of 3 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
13. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 10, wherein the functional groups of the ion exchanger membrane are selected from the group consisting of DEAE, DEA, CM, QA, TMA, S, SP and phosphate groups.
14. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 9, wherein the impurities comprise bacterial endotoxins, culture medium components and impurities of culture medium components.
15. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to Claim 1, wherein, prior to step (a) and/or prior to the ion exchange chromatography according to Claim 9, a mixture containing the high-molecular compounds is subjected to filtration using a filtration membrane for the removal of additional impurities.
16. (Currently amended) ~~Use of the A composition comprising~~ high-molecular compounds purified and/or isolated in accordance with Claim 1 as biologically active components in a pharmaceutical composition, which optionally contains a with an optional pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or diluent.